

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
November 9, 2009

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
William P. Allen, PhD	Margaret Nusbaum	Suzan M. Adams	Stephen Wilhide	Sarah Ferrall
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	David Gray, Comm		
Rae Ann Butler	Carolyn True	Alan Imhoff, Alderman		
Cristina Donahue- Taylor		Virginia Skelley		
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair				
Millard Haines				
Lloyd Hoover				
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. **Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions – Hal welcomed all attendees.**

III. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

IV. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray was not available today to give a report.

Alderman's Report – Alderman Imhoff was not available today to give a report.

V. Elder Expo, Hal Ehart – It was agreed that the Expo was well attended. The tri-fold display was effectively done. There were many questions from attendees about the role of the CoA. A brochure will be developed to promote the CoA and clarify its role at the next Expo.

There was some discussion that a member of the CoA should become a representative on the Elder Services Provider Council. The Council meets once a month on the second Thursday. There is a networking period at 8:30 and the official meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. There is normally a speaker each month. There are typically 50-60 people attending each meeting. Rae Ann currently attends this Council meeting and reports to them on CoA activities. Earl Beck has offered to become an alternate for this meeting.

Senior Forum, All – The forum went well and was well attended. There was a sense that the Commissioners were a little defensive. It would be helpful to get the questions to them earlier next year. It was impressive that all five of the Commissioners were present for the event. It may be difficult to repeat next year due to the county elections, but it would be a good idea to approach the new commissioners at the beginning of 2011 with the idea of a next forum. The newspaper article was misleading. Parking was a minor issue. A letter has been sent to all Commissioners, thanking them for their attendance

It would be beneficial to have an interactive work session with the county commissioners to work on issues that are affecting seniors. A regularly scheduled gathering initiated by this group would be beneficial. This commission should continue to attend community senior gatherings. We should keep track of what has been accomplished by this commission to show that we have been continuously active as advocates for the seniors. It would be helpful to get feedback from other senior commissions/groups in the area. A candidate forum could be sponsored next year by NARFE and/or AARP. Budgetary cuts are going to continue for 2011 and 2012. More and more seniors are going to become financially compromised. An additional group for reference would be caregivers that go into homes to assist seniors and/or home assistance agencies. We could invite a

home care provider agency to speak at a CoA meeting. They are able to reach seniors who aren't being accessed otherwise.

Update on United Seniors of Maryland, Virginia Skelley – Virginia was not available for today's meeting. Copies of the November, 2009 USM News were distributed. The USM State Rally will be held on January 19th with a snow date of January 21st. Transportation could be made available by the DoA if we can generate a full bus (14 persons) for the trip. The format will be different from previous years. It will be more of a forum setting and there will be a commitment to attend by the delegates. Individual memberships are also available at a fee of \$10 per year.

MOW 501(c)(3) Update, Louise Lynch – The group is still working on several forms that are necessary to obtain a non-profit status. Paperwork should be ready for submission by the end of the year. The timeframe to get the process completed is six months to one year. Once the paperwork has been submitted, the group can use the title 501(c)(3) and take donations. If the designation was not approved, the money would need to be returned.

- VI. Partners in Care, Sarah Ferrall** – Sarah has become the full time Program Coordinator for Partners in Care and Emily is now working part time. A Partner's in Care fact sheet was distributed at today's meeting. This fact sheet is not specific to Frederick County needs and includes volunteer hours and participant hours. The number of volunteers and participants continues to increase. There is an orientation for new volunteers once a month. The averages are 200 services, 300 volunteer hours, and 3,000 miles driven per month. Medical services take priority over social services for transportation needs. Long distance driving is the biggest volunteer need. PIC is striving to grow in the outer periphery of Frederick County, specifically Thurmont and Mt Airy. The majority of needs is during the weekday, but sometime occurs during the weekend. Emily does some outreach and there have been other outreach opportunities which usually result in more client needs versus volunteers.

Nominations Committee, Earl Beck – There are four vacancies on this commission and four resumes have been received. The number of members below the age stated in the by-laws may present an issue. According to the by-laws, "at least fifty percent of the members must be sixty years of age or older". The four vacancies are a result of one currently open position and three current members leaving the Commission. Members leaving are Hal Ehart, Pete Allen, and Sue Adams.

- VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True** – Carolyn distributed the statistical report for the DoA for October, 2009. This report gives a breakdown of

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what each of the programs has accomplished for the month. The Money Follows the Person program is a new category because some activity has started in this area. There has been an increase in the number of people seeking assistance who are under age 60 and disabled. These people are coming to DoA for assistance with Medicare issues.

Medicare D open enrollment period starts on November 16th and ends December 30th. Appointments are being scheduled to help seniors recognize their prescription options. There is a mix of volunteers and staff taking appointments. Dennis Ford is a very dedicated volunteer and has been helping out with SHIP needs. He will continue to help with MC-D open enrollment.

Santas for Seniors will take place again this year. This is done in conjunction with other local businesses. This is a program to help disadvantaged seniors receive holiday gifts.

Financial statistics for the federal fiscal year funds were also made available at this meeting.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

January 11, 2010 - Commission on Aging, 1 pm at the Frederick Senior Center,
Frederick, MD 21702

January 19, 2010 – USM Rally, Annapolis, MD; Snow Date January 21, 2010